



MCDC Update

United States
Census
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An update from the Missouri Census Data Center, a program of the Missouri State Library

October 2004

Receive Missouri census updates through e-mail

The Missouri Census Data Center (MCDC) will periodically release *MCDC Update* to inform census data users about the latest developments. This brief newsletter will be available electronically to everyone on the MCDC listserv, affiliates, associates, and past conference attendees. Old versions will be archived on the Secretary of State's Web site. We hope you find this service helpful, and we welcome contributions from the census data user community.

New state and county population estimates released

Last month the Census Bureau went public with the latest round of county and state level population estimates, including demographic details for age, race, sex, and ethnic and racial origin. Official details can be found on the Census Bureau's Web site at <http://www.census.gov/popest/estimates.php>. You can also access selected reports and files from links on this page.

Data for Missouri, Illinois and Kansas has been added to the MCDC collection, and can be found from the Highlights section of the MCDC home page (<http://mcdc.missouri.edu/>) and from the "What's New" page. We have generated reports summarizing the data by each of the demographic categories (age, race, sex and Hispanic origin) for the state, county and metropolitan/micropolitan areas. The actual datasets added to the archive have the estimates at the county level summarized by all possible combinations of the four demographic categories. Thus, you can extract data that has estimates by just age and race (alone or in combination), or by age and Hispanic origin and sex, or just by race and Hispanic origin. You can access the detailed data using uexplore and Dexter. (A link is provided on the home page.)

Replacement for long form may be on hold

Nathaniel Albers, Missouri State Library, and John Blodgett, OSEDA, attended the annual census conference in Alexandria, Va. and Suitland, Md. September 21-23 and learned that the American Community Survey (ACS), the replacement for the census long form, may not happen due to federal fiscal constraints. During his opening remarks to the conference, Census Bureau director William Kincannon surprised his audience by stating that if the current budget impasse in the Congress results in significant reductions in projected funding for the American Community Survey, the Bureau would have to make a decision "soon" about beginning to plan for a long form in the 2010 census. The original (and current) plan was to have the ACS replace the decennial long form, but that presumes continuous funding for the program from Congress.

Join the MCDC listserv

MCDC announces the launch of the new Missouri Census Data Center listserv. At our annual conference in July, many attendees encouraged such a listserv to serve those who are interested in census data and the MCDC Web site. The listserv can function as a place where ideas and information can be readily and quickly exchanged. To subscribe, e-mail listserv@listserv.sos.mo.gov and in the body of the message type *subscribe mcdc your_firstname your_lastname*. After sending this message you should receive a confirmation that you are subscribed to the listserv, along with instructions on how to address your messages or change your subscriber status. We hope this tool will be helpful to all our data users. The opportunity to gain insight from one another is there, and now it will be up to all of us to post messages when we have questions, or want to share information or answer questions posed by others. Please note that while this tool is being created to some extent as a tool for sharing amongst the Missouri Census Data Center core group and affiliate network, we in no way want to limit its use to that group. We invite all interested users to subscribe. You don't even have to live in Missouri.

To subscribe or unsubscribe to *MCDC Update*, contact Nathaniel Albers, 800-325-0131, ext. 14, or nathaniel.albers@sos.mo.gov.

MCDC Update will be archived for six months on the State Library's Web site at http://www.sos.mo.gov/library/mcdc_update.

News from U.S. Census Bureau

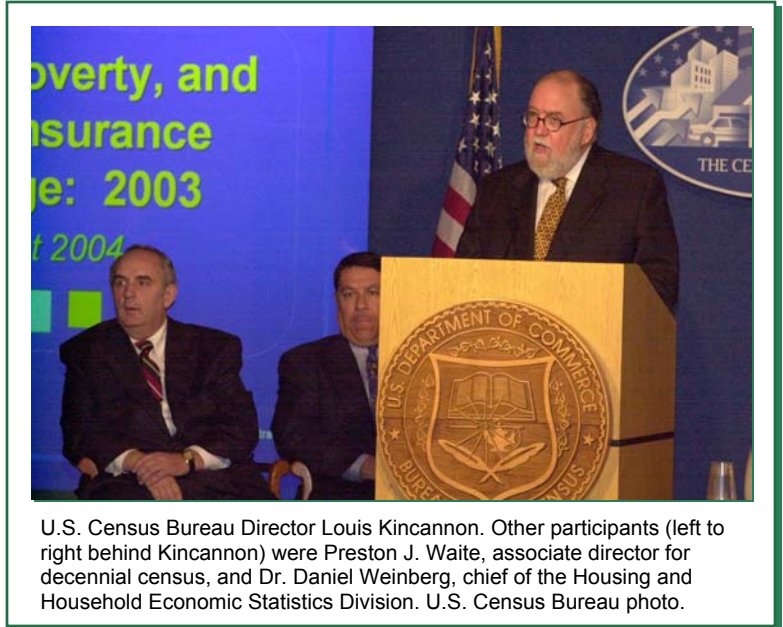
2003 income, poverty and health insurance coverage

The U.S. Census Bureau recently held a news conference to release its findings on 2003 income, poverty and health insurance coverage from the Current Population Survey (CPS), as well as a wide range of socioeconomic data from its 2003 American Community Survey (ACS).

Participants included the U.S. Census Bureau Director Louis Kincannon, Preston J. Waite, associate director for decennial census, and Daniel Weinberg, chief of the housing and household economic statistics division.

According to the report, real median household income remained unchanged between 2002 and 2003 at \$43,318. At the same time, the nation's official poverty rate rose from 12.1 percent in 2002 to 12.5 percent in 2003. The number of people with health insurance increased by 1.0 million to 243.3 million between 2002 and 2003, and the number without such coverage rose by 1.4 million to 45.0 million. The percentage of the nation's population without coverage grew from 15.2 percent in 2002 to 15.6 percent in 2003.

Go to <http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/2004/2004IncomePov.html> for more information on the reports, ACS tables and other materials.



Census Bureau releases ACS report on housing characteristics

The Census Bureau recently released the tenth and final report in a series designed to address operational and technical aspects of the ACS. The report provides a starting point for measuring and understanding the differences in the estimates of the physical and financial characteristics of the nation's housing between those produced in the past by decennial census samples and those that will be produced in the future by the ACS.

The report compares single-year Census 2000 Supplementary Survey (C2SS) national and county level estimates (selected counties only) with Census 2000 sample data. Some findings from this report include:

- Distributions of physical and financial housing characteristics from the Census 2000 sample and C2SS were very similar. The census found nothing to preclude the use of ACS housing estimates for any purpose for which Census 2000 sample estimates have been used.
- Different residence rules in Census 2000 and C2SS may have affected some housing estimates, but the differences, once ACS goes nationwide, most likely would be confined to highly seasonal areas.
- A review of the housing results by data collection mode suggests that differences, when found, were more likely to be reflected in the data collected by enumerators and interviewers than in self-response data.
- Differences in several financial characteristics may primarily be a reflection of the way the data collection spanned the different time frames of the Census 2000 sample and C2SS.
- Some differences in the final estimates are probably explained by difference in the levels of no response between the Census 2000 sample and the C2SS.

The report found that housing estimates derived using the ACS methods and design are highly acceptable for use in all ways that decennial sample housing estimates have been used.

Click <http://www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/Report10.pdf> to view "Meeting 21st Century Demographic Data Needs? Implementing the American Community Survey, Report 10: Comparing Selected Physical and Financial Characteristics of Housing with Census 2000." For more information go to <http://www.census.gov/>.

Staff Updates for MCDC

Nathan Mattox of the Geographic Resources Center (GRC) has taken a new position with the Missouri State Highway Patrol. He will be working with crime data and GIS helping that agency better understand crime in Missouri. While the MCDC staff is sorry to see him leave the GRC and his role with the census data center, they are excited for him and his new opportunity. Thanks for your hard work with the MCDC, Nathan! **Jim Harlan** and **Levi Boettler** at the GRC are helping the MCDC with the GIS needs of the program now and we are pleased to welcome them. Jim Harlan has worked with the MCDC before and has many years of census and GIS experience in Missouri. Levi Boettler has worked on GIS projects including the Lewis and Clark Historic Vegetation project that used notes from the 1800s to create a model of what Missouri looked like around the time of Lewis and Clark. For more information about Jim and Levi, go to http://msdisweb.missouri.edu/grc/staff_frame.html.

Nathaniel Albers joined the Missouri State Library staff as coordinator of the Missouri Census Data Center on June 1, 2004. He is responsible for managing the State Library's role with the Missouri Census Data Center as well as several other programs. He most recently worked at the Mid-Missouri Regional Planning Commission in Ashland, Mo. as a planner/GIS analyst. There he developed hazard mitigation plans, transportation plans, and maps for various projects. He also used census data extensively in preparing reports, grants, and maps for the planning commission. Albers has a B.A. from Juniata College in Huntingdon, Pa. and is completing his M.A. in geography at the University of Missouri - Columbia.